

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

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S E C R E T STATE 011662

STADIS/////////
FOR CHARGE FROM NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, LY

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT SALES AND MAINTENANCE

1. LOCKHEED HAS REQUESTED APPROVAL OF PLANS TO RETURN ALL LIBYAN C-130S TO U.S. FOR MAJOR OVERHAUL. WE ARE INCLINED TO DENY THIS REQUEST TO SIGNAL OUR DISPLEASURE WITH LIBYA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR TERRORISTS AND QADHAFI'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO BUILD UP ARAB OPPOSITION TO SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. IF WE ALSO PROHIBITED EXPORT OF THE NECESSARY SPARE PARTS TO ALL OF THE EUROPEAN FIRMS TECHNICALLY COMPETENT TO PERFORM THE OVERHAULS, THE C-130S EVENTUALLY WOULD BECOME UNFLYABLE. WE MIGHT ALSO TELL LOCKHEED WE NO LONGER WILL APPROVE THE STATIONING OF ITS TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN LIBYA, NOR THE PROVISION OF SPARE PARTS REQUIRED FOR ONSITE MAINTENANCE.

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2. WE ALSO ARE CONSIDERING A REQUEST TO APPROVE SALE BY LOCKHEED TO LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES OF AN EXECUTIVE JET CALLED THE JET STAR. IN THIS CASE OUR INCLINATION IS TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL.

3. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN REACHING OUR DECISION TO HAVE YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE PROBABLE IMPACT ON OUR INTERESTS

IN LIBYA OF THE NEGATIVE DECISIONS OUTLINED IN PARA 1. WE
ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN YOUR OPINION AS TO WHICH,
IF ANY, OF THESE PROPOSED DECISIONS WOULD BE LIKELY TO PRO-
VOKE RETALIATION AGAINST OUR ECONOMIC INTERESTS, AS WELL
AS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE NATURE OF POSSIBLE RETALIATION.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SALES, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE011662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKBISHOP:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780023-0976
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780158/aaaabwyx.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 848763e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3766571
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT SALES AND MAINTENANCE
TAGS: MASS, MILI, LY
To: TRIPOLI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/848763e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014